

## Constantine

been sent to all whose presence was  
desired, and  
these had entered and taken their  
places in  
and orderly fashion on either side of the  
hall. Thei  
expectant silence fell upon the  
company. As th  
moment for the Emperor's entry  
approached, som  
of the members of his immediate  
entourage began t  
arrive, but Eusebius is careful to  
mention that ther  
were no guards or officers in armour, "  
only friend  
who avowed the faith of Christ." At  
the signal tha  
Constantine was at hand, the whole  
assembly swep  
to its feet, and the Emperor passed  
through thei  
midst like " some heavenly angel of  
God, clad i  
glittering raiment that seemed to  
gleam and flas  
with bright effulgent rays of light,  
encrusted as J  
was with gold and precious stones."  
Yet, thoug  
Constantine was thus dazzling in  
externals, it ws  
evident — at least to the penetrating  
eye of th  
courtier bishop — that his mind was "  
beautified b  
pity and godly fear." For was not this  
revealed b  
his downcast eyes, his heightened  
colour, and h:  
modest bearing? Advancing to the  
upper end c  
the hall, Constantine stood facing  
the assembl  
while a low golden stool was brought  
for him, an  
then, when the bishops motioned to  
him to h  
seated, he took his seat, and the whole  
audience fo  
lowed his example. Beyond doubt,  
most of th  
bishops then gazed for the first time

upon the Emperor to whom they could not be sufficiently grateful for all he had done for the Church, and Constantine himself might well be flattered and pleased at the homage, evidently sincere, that was being offered to him, as well as a little nervous at the thought that;